the excess of cost arising from the increased value of labour and materials by a reduction in the quantity of the stone-work, which would not essentially alter the character of the building, while the expense would be lessened by nearly 2,000*l.* Mr. Hardwick had commenced the work.——St. John's Church, in Grange-lane, Birkenhead, the foundation stone of which was laid on 17th June, 1845, and which has been built in the early English lancet style, cruciform, with nave, aisles, transepts, chancel, western tower, with broach spire, and south porch, from the design of Mr. Charles Reed, of Birkenhead, architect, carried out by Messrs. Walker, also of that town, contractors, was opened on Sunday week. The stained-glass windows have been designed and constructed by Mr. Forest. The founders were Messrs. Jackson and Mr. Malleby, also of Birkenhead. The interior is fitted up with pews (which the architect was bound to do), and accommodates 900 persons. The length of the nave in the interior is 100 feet; breadth, 24 feet; height from floor to springing of high-pitched roof, 38 feet; height from floor to apex of roof, 54 feet 6 inches; breadth, including aisles, 45 feet 8 inches; breadth, including transepts, 83 feet 8 inches; piers, 10 feet to 13 feet apart, and 18 feet 6 inches high; arches 9 feet 6 inches high. Three other churches, Christ Church, at Claughton Fire, St. James's, in Conway-street, and St. Anne's, in the vicinity of the park, are also making progress towards completion.——A 'considerable number of the bridges' at Manchester, it appears, are 'in a very disgraceful state,' as lately admitted by the town clerk in council. Difficulties are said to exist in compelling the right parties, legally, to reinstate them. Railway companies were prepared to do so had they got possession of canals with which they seem to be connected.——A colossal statue, in marble, of the late Earl of Lonsdale, has been installed between the court-houses at Carlisle. ——The Newcastle and Gateshead Sanatory Association have petitioned the Newcastle council to put an end to the accumulations of filth, &c., to which they have traced the prevalence of fever, and which the council are empowered by the Town Improvement Act of 1846 to do. The attention of the council has also been called to their power to put down the smoke nuisance, of which Newcastle is a notorious focus.——The face of a large and massively-built tower, imbedded in the earth, within a few feet from the surface, was lately laid open in course of excavation on the hill under the North British Railway station at Berwick, for the new bridge across the Tweed. It appears, says the *Warder*, to have been one of the towers of the ancient castle of Berwick, which through the long course of time had been filled up, and completely surrounded with masses of earth. The soil having been cleared away, it now stands an enduring relic of ancient architecture.

RAILWAY JOTTINGS.

The aggregate of this year's calls now amounts to 29,293,702*l.*, yielding an average of 3,661,712*l.* a month. For August they amount to 1,899,489*l.*: February and August are the lowest.——The Eastern Counties Company are now making the public pay a further *bonus* on *their* share of the recent cattle shew generosity—if they at least were really included in that 'tub to catch a whale.' They have just raised their first-class fares from London to Cambridge from 10s. 6d. to 13s. The old jog trot system by coach cost only 12s.! so that there is, in this respect at least, a retrogradation to very primitive times indeed. There is, of course, an equivalent rise on other fares and distances, except where the more potent sway of the omnibus system compels a reduction. Other absurdities, such as the charge of 1s. for a remanent length of 3½ miles, or 4d. per mile!—have been pointed out by correspondents of the *Cambridge Chronicle*, *The Times*, &c.——A slight yieldance of the arches and one of the buttresses near to the London-road at Manchester on the South Junction line, is noticed by a Manchester paper of Saturday week.——Four arches out of eight at Little Bolton, on the line in course of formation between Blackburn, Darwen, and Bolton, gave way on Tuesday week while yet in the green state, and killed two labourers.——At the 'summit' of the Caledonian line there are now 800 labourers employed. Their labours have been greatly expedited, it is said, by the American boring machine, already noticed in The Builder. The company intend to bring four of these into use by aid of a steam-engine. Gun-cotton, too, is now used in place of gunpowder. This portion of the line, it is calculated, will cost the company 100,000*l.* before it is fit to receive the rails, which will not be for twelve months to come.——The Peruvian president has accepted the proposal of Mr. William Wheelwright to construct a line of railway, the first in Peru, between Lima and Callao, a length of about six miles, for which a decree has gone forth. The construction is to be on a cheap principle.

ELECTRO-TELEGRAPHIC.

It is intended, we hear, immediately to establish an electric telegraph between all the fire-engine stations in the metropolis, so that when a fire breaks out, information of the fact can instantaneously be communicated to all the stations on its reaching any one of them.——A telegraph has been for some time in operation through the Box tunnel, for the purpose of giving notice at either entrance, on the approach of an up or down train, that the tunnel is clear of all obstructions.

WESTMINSTER COURT OF SEWERS.

A court of sewers was held on the 6th inst., Capt. Bague in the chair, when a number of letters were read from different parties, calling upon the court to put into effect the sanatory provisions of the new Act.

On the presentation of the list of petitions for new sewers and drains, leave for the execution of which had been granted by the clerk and surveyor, under the authority of a resolution passed at the last court, a long discussion ensued, in which the principle of delegating the powers of the court to their officers was strongly condemned, as highly impolitic, if not illegal. After a division the petitions were received, and at a later period of the day notice of motion was given to *rescind* the resolution at the next court!

The Expiring Commission.—In reference to the subject of this commission, which expires on the 5th of December next, Mr. John White brought forward the resolution of which he had given notice, viz., "That the clerk do prepare the usual application for a new commission to the Right Hon. the Lord High Chancellor; the said application to be submitted to the court at its second meeting in August." Mr. Hawkes opposed the motion, and contended that great alterations were required in the composition of the commission, and that the same persons should not be re-appointed. He was of opinion, also, that the parishes should have a greater control of their proceedings, and concluded by proposing an amendment; but as no seconder could be found for it, it fell to the ground. The chairman remarked, that this court could not control the Lord Chancellor in his selection of the persons to form the commission, and of course a large number of new commissioners would be appointed. The clerk said it was formerly the practice for the old commissioners to recommend those persons who should be the new ones, but that plan had for years been abandoned. Since the present commission was appointed, the number was considerably reduced, as upwards of sixty deaths had occurred. The chairman then put the motion, which was carried by a majority of 28 to 1.

The Drainage of Kensington.—Mr. J. Phillips, the surveyor, brought before the court a report, accompanied by elaborate plans and sections, on the subject of the drainage of Kensington, in consequence of memorials presented by inhabitants of Church-street and Holland-street, in that locality. The report pointed out the very defective drainage, and, in reference to the sewers passing through the churchyard, contained the following passage: —"The depth of each of the sewers running under the churchyard is about seven or eight feet below the surface, in consequence of which, and from their openness, they have been frequently broken into and temporarily made good by the grave-diggers; the rain-water penetrating the ground to that level, and the exudations from the putrid human bodies in the graves drain into them, the noxious odour and sickening effluvium from which, mixing with the current of air passing along them and the several private drains, and so into and through the houses, infect the atmosphere therein, creating fever, and otherwise annoying and injuring the inhabitants." To remedy the evil, new sewers are proposed to be built in Church-street, Holland-street, and other places, to join with the present one in High-street, and to divert the course of several others, the total length being 2,267 feet. From the character of the ground through which the new sewers will pass, being hard gravel, it is proposed that the size No. 2 be adopted, and *half a brick thick*, which will enable the whole work to be done at the cost of 850*l.* 2s. 6d.

Mr. Willoughby doubted the propriety of altering the plan of sewers already laid down as by departing from it a discussion would be raised on every fresh application. If the sewers were to fall in, the public would have to make good the damage, and it therefore behoved them to hold by the plan that had given such general satisfaction. In other respects he cordially approved of the plans of the surveyor.

Mr. T. L. Donaldson, as a practical man, was favourable to experiments, but thought they should be exercised with great caution. Although many of the sewers in the Holborn and Finsbury division were built half a brick in thickness, yet still it was a matter of judgment and not of principle, and he was not satisfied that a sewer built of half a brick was a proper one. He believed that it would be liable to abrasion and a want of solidity. It was a great pity to try experiments where their failure might be of great inconvenience to the public; but he had no objection that the experiments should be tried in the collateral streets.

Mr. Hawkes saw no necessity for the interference of the court at all, as the inhabitants found no inconvenience from the present mode of drainage. As to fever and effluvium, he lived at Kensington and never even heard of it. The emergency was a trumped-up one, and the whole proceedings the most extraordinary ever heard of.

Mr. Le Breton said no man could take up the report without being struck with its boldness and good sense. The great merit of the commission would be estimated by the cheapness of the works executed. He hoped they would go on with the plan, and not fall back upon the old and stupid system, which was no credit to the court, or any of the parties concerned. He moved, "That the report of the surveyor as to the drainage of part of Kensington be adopted and carried into effect, with directions to him to give an average depth of 15 feet, as near as possible, along the line." After some other hon. commissioners had expressed their opinions, the chairman put the resolution, which was carried by a majority of 14 to 6.

YORKSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.—The quarterly committee meeting of this society was held a fortnight ago, at the society's rooms, Minster-yard, at twelve o'clock. The following grants were made: 20*l.* additional grant towards the restoration of Howden Church, and 5*l.* additional grant for the restoration of the west window of Holy Trinity Church, Goodramgate, York. A communication was read from the Ven. Archdeacon Churton, calling the attention of the society to the present state of the interesting church of Skipton, near Selby; and notice was given that a grant would be proposed at the next meeting, to be made in aid of the restoration of the chancel of that edifice. Notice was also given that grants would be moved at the following meeting for the renovation of the roof over the chancel of St. Sampson's Church, York, and for stained glass in the chapel of St. Michael, Carleton, near Pontefract. A present of brass rubbings, from churches in Surrey, was received from the Viscount Downe, which was accompanied by an account of the inscriptions, dates, and peculiarities of the various brasses. It was accordingly resolved, "That the best thanks of the society be given to Lord Viscount Downe for his most useful contribution, and for the labour and research to which the accompanying descriptions bear witness."

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